

JAMAICA PLAIN FRIENDLY SOCIETY

Organized 1874

Incorporated 1901

Annual Report, 1907-1908

Take Notice

The Jamaica Plain Friendly Society represents the entire community. Subscriptions in its behalf are collected by its authorized solicitors, beginning in November. A prompt and generous response to their calls is earnestly hoped for, as the Society is dependent upon these annual subscriptions.

FORM OF BEQUEST.

I give and bequeath to the Jamaica Plain Friendly Society of Boston the sum of..... dollars.

JAMAICA PLAIN FRIENDLY SOCIETY

ORGANIZED 1874

INCORPORATED 1901

ANNUAL REPORT 1907-1908

JAMAICA PLAIN, MASS.

1908

JAMAICA PLAIN FRIENDLY SOCIETY.

1907-1908.

The most marked feature of the winter of 1907-1908 was the stagnant condition of all business, causing great lack of employment for the working people. The calls which came from this cause, and also from an unusual amount of sickness made a very busy winter for our visitors. In March our Treasury was almost empty, and a special appeal for additional contributions was made, the first such appeal in the thirty-four years of our society's existence. A few friends responded generously, and we were enabled to continue our work, with great economy, through the spring, and to leave a small balance in the treasury for summer calls. These summer calls have also been more numerous and urgent this year than usual.

It is hoped that generous contributions may come to us this autumn, that the workers may be spared the anxiety of last year in regard to the money necessary to relieve cases of suffering.

Our society is in close touch with the Associated Charities, regular reports of aid given being sent to their office and, especially, records of all new cases. They also refer to us all applications from our district. We believe that nothing is so important as this working together of all charitable organizations and churches, and benevolent individuals as well, in the care of the poor.

Much harm is done by careless almsgiving and by lack of co-operation. Our society discourages giving to beggars, and urges all benevolent men and women in this community to work with us by bringing all appeals for aid to our office, if

they are unable to investigate them themselves. This may often save mistakes, as well as money.

The importance of such a central organization as ours was never more emphasized than last year when our visitors were asked to co-operate with the Chelsea Relief Committee in investigating the condition of a number of families who had taken refuge in our district. Our visitors were glad to give their help in this direction and to secure aid for those who sorely needed it.

A number of cases have also been reported to us by the Association for the Prevention and Cure of Tuberculosis. These have all been visited and carefully investigated. Several have needed special care and work, and in a few cases the results are already very encouraging. For one young man our visitor found that his church was ready to pay board at Rutland for several weeks, and he is now at home well and able to work again. Another of our churches is helping to care for a young woman until her relatives are able to assume the responsibility. Hers is also a hopeful case. For a young woman and a man needing unusual expenditure and care outside of the Rutland Sanatorium, money was raised from private individuals. The man's case proved hopeless, but the woman, in spite of pretty serious complications, is greatly improved, and she is now living at home again. Our Jamaica Plain Dispensary has helped to pay the board of two patients at Rutland whose cases were first investigated by us. Other cases of tuberculosis have come to us, some needing visiting at home and orders for nourishing food.

Much correspondence and conference with other societies and hospitals has been necessary in all of this important part of our work. So urgent and important has it been that we

strongly feel the need of a Jamaica Plain Committee on Tuberculosis, composed of members of other local organizations as well as of the Friendly Society. We hope that such a committee may be formed later on and that all of our churches may co-operate with it.

For a number of sick and delicate people milk and eggs have been furnished, and for some made destitute from illness of heads of families, or from lack of work, coal and food orders have been given for a time. A large number on our list are widows, some with large families of children.

The statistics which follow give a very poor idea of the interest and importance of the work of our visitors. Each family, each individual, has its own characteristics, and each requires special study and consideration. Often we are filled with admiration and respect for the courage and heroism of those whose condition we are trying to relieve. How brave and unselfish these women are in bearing their limitations and trials! And how ready even the very poor are to help each other! In the midst of many problems and perplexities the visitor has often most valuable experiences and lessons.

The number of our visitors is quite too small for the work, and we ask earnestly for more helpers in this direction. Every church and every part of our district, from the Roxbury to the Roslindale line, should be represented by visitors willing to give time and thought to the conditions and needs of their poorer neighbors. As it is now, each of our visitors is doing the work which ought to be divided among three or four. Is it too much to ask for new helpers who may be familiarizing themselves with the work, so that it may not suffer when vacancies occur, as they must each year, from sickness or other causes? Those who may be willing to help us are asked to

confer with members of the Case Committee, or with Miss Smith, our agent, at Curtis Hall, during her office hours.

We are very much indebted to some of our Associate-visitors, and to others outside of the society, who have obtained work for several men whose families were in great need. Work, by the day, has also been found for eighteen women, and summer work, as waitresses, for two young girls.

We wish to thank the friends who have contributed money for special cases, also those who have helped us with gifts of clothing and boots and shoes. Such gifts are always needed, and most acceptable.

Our room at Curtis Hall is open every week day, except Saturdays and holidays, from October to May, from ten to one o'clock, and our agent may be found there at those hours. During the months when the room is closed, applications for aid may be referred to our treasurer, Mr. E. W. Clark, Centre street, who will report them to a visitor. The work of the society is carried on in the summer by the visitors, who are ready to be called upon, but it is not thought necessary to open our room at that season.

Meetings of the Case Committee are held on Thursday mornings, from ten to twelve o'clock, from November to May.

ELLEN C. MORSE,
For Case Committee.

STATISTICS FOR 1907 - 1908.

| | |
|---|------|
| Applicants | 152 |
| Visited and investigated | 128 |
| Sewing women | 36 |
| Articles made for societies, hospitals and Infant Asylum | 4020 |
| Garments given away | 120 |
| Shoes given away (pairs) | 64 |
| Rubbers given away (pairs) | 66 |

TREASURER'S REPPORT.

OCTOBER, 1907, TO OCTOBER, 1908.

RECEIPTS.

| | |
|--------------------------------------|-----------|
| Balance from last year | \$ 83 85 |
| Received from subscriptions | 1368 55 |
| " from sales | 34 60 |
| " interest on investments | 315 00 |
| " from loan returned | 6 00 |
| " cash returned for materials | 16 00 |
| " cash returned for coal | 1 88 |
| " from Thanksgiving collection | 16 64 |
| | <hr/> |
| | \$1842 52 |

EXPENDITURES.

| | |
|-----------------------------------|-----------|
| Paid Agent's salary | \$ 300 00 |
| " for provisions and milk | 397 80 |
| " " coal and wood | 154 07 |
| " " materials | 104 31 |
| " " boots and shoes | 126 65 |
| " Case Committee for sewing | 534 00 |
| " for printing | 49 25 |
| " " postage and stationery | 10 62 |
| " " eye glasses | 2 12 |
| " " moving furniture | 6 00 |
| " " expressage | 1 15 |
| Loaned for special cases | 11 00 |
| Balance of cash on hand | 145 55 |
| | <hr/> |
| | \$1842 52 |

Respectfully submitted,

E. W. CLARK, *Treasurer.*

I certify that the accounts of E. W. Clark, Treasurer, of the Jamaica Plain Friendly Society from October 1, 1907, to October 1, 1908, are correctly cast; his payments are properly vouched, and that he charges himself with a balance of one hundred and forty-five dollars, fifty-five cents (\$145.55.)

W. HENRY WINSLOW, *Auditor.*

Boston, October 24, 1908.

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1908 - 1909.

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